

As Cyprus is a member of the European Union (EU), a strong ally of the United States, and a stable democracy in the Mediterranean, we need to continue to send a clear message to Turkey that the illegal and immoral occupation of Cyprus will not be tolerated.

In an effort to move forward, Cyprus has extended the benefits of EU citizenship to both Greek and Turkish Cypriots on both sides of the divide, and there have been subtle exchanges and partnerships between the two communities since 2003. Residents now have the ability to travel freely between Cyprus and the occupied North.

Even with these positive developments, some aspects of the division remain intractable. The number of Turkish troops in the North is the same as thirty-six years ago. Greek religious sights in the North continue to suffer from neglect. Communities may be free to travel, but the island is still divided into ethnic enclaves.

I am optimistic that President Obama has identified bringing the Greek and Turkish communities together in a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation as a priority, along with the EU. Most importantly, this is also the goal of the Cypriot people. On the thirty-sixth anniversary of the division of Cyprus, I encourage Cypriot President Demetrios Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat to strengthen their efforts to remove Turkish troops, free movement between the Greek and Turkish communities, and end the division of Cyprus. It is time for us in Congress, with President Obama's commitment, to move Cyprus to a future of peace and prosperity.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues in standing against Turkish oppression in Cyprus. Thirty-six years is a long time to wait, but it is my sincerest hope that our actions will persuade Turkey to end its unlawful occupation of Cyprus.

RECOGNITION OF HONDA'S MARYSVILLE PLANT AS IT PRODUCES THE 10-MILLIONTH ACCORD

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a significant milestone for central Ohio auto manufacturers. On the morning of July 20, 2010, the ten millionth domestically-produced Honda Accord was manufactured at Honda's Marysville Auto Plant. The production center, located near Marysville, Ohio, has created thousands of jobs and brought billions of dollars in capital investments to central Ohio and the country as a whole.

In its 28th year of production, the Marysville automobile plant has undergone expansion along with continuous innovation and improved efficiency. It is one of the most flexible and efficient plants in North America, achieving top quality performance. In fact, the Marysville plant ranked among the top five in North America in the 2010 Initial Quality Survey conducted by J.D. Power and Associates.

The factory has evolved from its completion of 967 Accords in its first year of business to its current production capacity of 1,800 vehicles per day. Nearly all Accords sold in North America are now manufactured at the

Marysville plant. The success of this plant represents the achievements of the hard-working Ohioans who run its daily operations as well as our country's continued strength as a major global manufacturer.

Honda partners with 530 suppliers in the U.S. and 160 in Ohio in the production of passenger cars and light trucks. These purchases totaled \$12 billion last year, with \$5.5 billion in parts coming from suppliers in Ohio. The Accord has achieved considerable success in the United States, where it has remained a top-5 overall seller for the past twenty years. Numerous tests, past and present, rate the Accord as one of the world's safest and most reliable automobiles.

Honda has provided key investments in our community. Central Ohioans have demonstrated their skills and work ethic and have made the Marysville Auto Plant a leader in the region and world. I am proud to recognize this accomplishment as they produce the ten millionth Honda Accord in the United States, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Honda and the Marysville Auto Plant on this achievement.

THE 36TH COMMEMORATION OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, 36 years ago today, Turkish forces invaded the sovereign nation of Cyprus, killing 5,000 Greek Cypriots and displacing nearly 200,000. This blatant violation of international law and lack of respect for a country's right to self-determination is made worse by the fact that Turkish occupation of the northern area of Cyprus continues to this day.

This is a dark anniversary to mark, one that represents an entire generation of Cypriots expelled from their homes—their property confiscated, family members missing and religious artifacts vandalized and destroyed. This occupation desecrates the basic freedoms and rights of the Cypriot people. Nearly 37 percent of the island of Cyprus remains under Turkish military control in violation of an illegitimate sovereignty that is unrecognized by any nation but Turkey. This is completely unacceptable.

In the past 36 years, there have been more than 75 resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council—a council of which Turkey is a member. These resolutions call for the return of refugees to their homes and withdrawal of troops from Cyprus. President Demetrios Christofias has followed through on his election promise to make the solution of this problem his top priority and has had several full-fledged negotiations with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. Yet, the negotiations' success has been consistently thwarted by Ankara, which has not given great freedom to the Turkish Cypriot leaders to negotiate within the agreed-upon framework.

The legitimate, internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus stands firmly for peaceful resolution of the conflict. This path to a resolution calls for a single citizenship, a single sovereignty, and two politically equal communities. The solution to proceed with a bi-zonal,

bi-communal federation is, most importantly, Cypriot in design.

Cyprus must be the author of its own path forward. Yet, the United States can and must do more to encourage Turkey to support the process and the reunification of the island. We should use our influence with Turkey to urge it to actively support the reunification of the island and to withdraw its troops from the island. We must provide support and assistance to the process and those working to move it forward.

As a Greek American and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I could not feel more strongly about the reunification of Cyprus. Cyprus is a nation that has endured occupation long enough. For us, the issue is straightforward and clear: we must do all we can to aid our ally, the Republic of Cyprus, in righting the wrongs of the past 36 years and in so doing, to promote peace and security in the Mediterranean.

HONORING THE STATLER CENTER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Statler Center, a program of the Olmsted Center for Sight, on its tenth anniversary of service and commitment to blind, visually impaired and disabled individuals across the nation to achieve their highest level of independence.

The Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D. Center for the Visually Impaired was founded in 1907 to serve the needs of blind and visually impaired individuals of all ages who reside in the eight counties of Western New York. It remains the only agency within its region specifically mandated to provide comprehensive blind rehabilitation, health-related and human services to this highly specialized population.

Consistent with the agency's mission to assist blind and otherwise disabled individuals achieve their highest levels of independence in their homes, communities and places of work, the Olmsted Center founded the Statler Center program in response to a critical need to create meaningful career opportunities for blind and physically challenged working age adults who are capable and motivated to live productive self-sufficient lives.

Now in its tenth year of operation, the Statler Center remains the first and only program of its kind in the nation, annually drawing students from throughout the United States and world. It offers an intensive ten-week curriculum that includes classroom instruction, technology training, job readiness skills and comprehensive and continuous placement and career advancement services upon completion of the program.

While the national unemployment rate for people without disabilities is upwards of 9%, physically or visually impaired individuals suffer at a strikingly higher rate of 70%. The Statler Center is instrumental in combating this disparity as their job placement rate is currently 82% with a starting salary that is well above minimum wage. In addition, the staff works intensively with Statler students and graduates throughout the entire application,